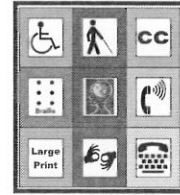




Office on the Disabled
City of Saint Louis
Advisory Council Meeting
Room 305, City Hall
May 7, 2012



Minutes

Gina Hilberry as Council Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present included Gina Hilberry, Wendy Sullivan, Mike Keller, Kerri Morgan, Willie Kimbrough, William Sheldon, and Linda Baker. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner of the Office on the Disabled were also present. Absent was Jane Thomas.

Minutes from the March 26th meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on June 4th at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

Plan for Finalizing Streets Review

There are two separate issues with the streets. The curb ramp survey and how we need to respond and hopefully assist the Streets Department with a transition plan in the future is one issue. The survey done on the 28 wards varies greatly. Ward One is of obvious concern because it states that there are only 16 intersections in the whole of the ward which is obviously inaccurate. The overall scope is 20,000 intersections and per Commissioner Newburger we need to prioritize work to be done in order to provide for the safety of citizens.

Mr. Newburger needs assessment of Ward One's curb cuts to be completed before he can go public and present the information to the Aldermen.

Ms. Hilberry believes that the ideal situation would be garnering an intern for the Office on the Disabled to complete the curb cut data. Ms. Hilberry will be on the lookout for this intern. Mr. Newburger and Ms. Hilberry did meet with a potential intern. They will continue with Ms. Morgan to find out his interest and availability.

Ms. Hilberry emphasized that this needs to be a positive plan of action rather than a stagnant report that just sits.

We also have a "lighter" report that we've been generating about work done by private contractors in the public rights of way under a permit issued by the streets division.

Gina was generating information and data and her interns are compiling that data with photographs.

Washington University Occupational Therapy students did a presentation on the curb cut addresses. The students are going to send us a power point and You Tube links of the students taking measurements with the smart levels.

Per Ms. Hilberry we should put together a cover memo with our collaborative findings to the streets department and find out from the Director of Streets what action they would like to take based on our findings. The first paragraph of this report is critical and we should ask for policy changes that include more training and more emphasis on accessible routes in the public right of way. We want to be supportive about this and gently suggest that work needs to be done. Mr. Newburger emphasized that this needs to be a one page report that clearly outlines percentages of concrete in need of repair.

Discussion of Ordinance Modification

Commissioner Newburger states that there is a problem with the criteria for Residential Parking Permits. The biggest question is who is qualified? Should we copy the criteria for disabled plates and placards? The method used currently is very medical model based (arthritis, stroke, cerebral palsy, etc). We need to include people who are blind and low vision—it can't just be mobility disabilities.

Per Ms. Hilberry—The committee recommends that this needs to be based on a current doctors statement and having permanent disabled plate or placard. Can we also recommend a fine be attached if you falsely represent the need for a spot due to overuse? Possibly a \$100 fine? We would need the Mayor's approval on this before we go to the Alderman.

St. Louis Public Schools Alteration Plans

Commissioner Newburger developed a policy (handout in packet) and this was reviewed by Ms Hilberry.

Policy-- Our request to the St. Louis Public Schools for their planning is that they provide the Office on the Disabled and the Building Division with the following three packages along with a timeline indicating when each package is to be provided to us.

First, provide us with –

1. An aerial photograph and/or site plan of each school/campus involved,

2. A list of specialized rooms in each school, such as, cafeterias, restrooms, science labs, home economics (a/k/a family and consumer sciences) classrooms, administrative offices, shops, gyms, etc., and
3. A list of the access issues to each primary function area. Include “ordinary” rooms (e.g. standard classrooms, principals’ offices) and the rooms listed under #2 above. Provide this for each building, building-by-building. Note: just because a room appears on this list and is noted as inaccessible due to a flight of stairs, does not mean that retrofits will necessarily be needed. Spaces and uses must be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Second, provide us with –

1. A narrative list for each building of what the plan will be to address each access issue noted in the first package, and
2. If, as is likely, not everything will be done at once, a specification of what phases will be established and which items in the narrative lists will be addressed in which phase.

Third, provide us with construction drawings for code compliance review.

The school board came in to get building permits and they have nearly 2 million dollars in bond money. And the first project they came in and said they would do is renovating a bunch of bathrooms so we’d like to have building permit to do this. It was decided though that this was neglecting Title II of the ADA because when they do alterations are they putting them in the context of making their programs accessible for people with all different kinds of disabilities. This created an issue because they hadn’t put any thought into this type of accessibility. Commissioner Newburger referenced the childcare center that would be in the school but wouldn’t be accessible to mothers due to steps leading into to the school. They now need to provide site plans and accessibility plans moving forward. Primary function areas need accessibility. There is a problem with them doing things in phases. The elevator they promised in phase II may never happen and it makes the Commissioner nervous to allow them to work in phases. The plan examiners have generally agreed to show information to Commissioner Newburger before issuing permits. The schools are prioritizing but not always successfully.

Ms. Hilberry is very pleased that this happened and requests that Commissioner Newburger asks for help from the Advisory Council should any be needed.

Emergency Preparedness – All Ready Campaign

Commissioner Newburger added an abstract of the All Ready Campaign in the handouts for the Advisory Council. It is up and running and funded. We are now asking people to go to various organizations that support people with disabilities (Paraquad, LifeSkills, St. Louis Arc, NAMI, etc) to create a train the trainer base and to include this information into their organizations training. All organizations

(even beyond ones specifically for disabilities) need to make emergency preparation a natural thing for our community. It is critical for us to encourage people to educate themselves on emergency preparedness.

Ms. Hilberry feels that the Advisory Council members could each pick two organizations to inform and educate on emergency preparedness. Commissioner Newburger emphasized that this is for personal safety and preparedness and that this is not necessarily focused on emergency first responders at this time.

New Business

Ms. Baker informed the council members that the accessible parking portion of the Bill HB 555 was going to die. However, Representative Grisamore is making another omnibus. She encouraged the council members to keep their eyes on House Bill 1854. There are numerous employment issues included in this Bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Morgan, Secretary